

The Northern Lights

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Freedom of the student press is dead

The Supreme Court has given school officials the power to censor student newspapers

By Paul Matthew Yonover
and Julie Bradford

In 1969, a land-mark decision was made when the Court had ruled, "It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the school-house gate." The new Court ruling says that this is no longer true.

The case deals with a student paper in a Hazelwood, Mo. high school. The principal had censored two pages of that school's paper, pages that dealt with divorce and abortion.

The ruling has caused an uproar in journalistic circles. Many feel that the ruling has the potential to inflict terrible damage upon student journalists and the papers that they put out.

"George Orwell was only off by four years. Now we have Big

Brother breathing down our necks, and our thoughts and expressions are now under continuous control. Everyone, no matter how old or young, has the freedom of the press and speech. No one has the right to take that away," commented one student journalist.

Justice Byron R. White, writing for the court, disagrees. "A school need not tolerate student speech that is inconsistent with its basic educational mission even though the government could not censor similar speech outside of school," he wrote. The majority of the high court agreed with this, voting 5-3 in favor of the principal, stating that he had not violated the students' constitutional freedoms.

Reactions ran deep as the news spread of the high court's decision. "I was shocked! I really did not believe that the Supreme Court would rule the way they did," commented Rod Cord, advisor to North Central's newspaper. "Some high school journalists [around the country] will have no press rights, and I believe that there will be additional court cases involving high school and college publications."

Other teachers of journalism reacted the same. Louis Ingelhart, Ball State University at Muncie professor of journalism, said that "the rights of people in high school don't count."

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"Freedom of the press, due to prior restraint, is dead in public high schools," according to Michael Lee Gradyson, Executive Director of the Indiana Civil Liberties Union, in a recent interview with *The Northern Lights*.

How will the Hazelwood case affect other student rights? "I think it is surely a bad sign...a very bad sign for the whole

range of constitutionally recognized student rights." He also said that he would not be surprised if dress codes, hair codes and other infringements of student rights made an appearance in the public schools due to the results of the Hazelwood decision.

Gradison also said that the Supreme Court ruling simply gave administrators the option to use prior restraint if they chose to do so; the ruling did not say that administrators have to use that option.

In a similar interview, Charles Roach, principal of North Central, said that administrators must have a good feel for the community and the

public and must be "able to make intelligent interpretation of what is acceptable in the area or the community." He said a problem arises when a student has a different opinion about a subject which is different than what the community thinks.

Roach also said that it is now up to the administration to determine how a certain article affects other people and if it is potentially libelous in order to prevent legal action against the township. "We need to keep in perspective that we are dealing with reasonable people that deal with subject matter responsibly. I have no need or concern or need to censor or edit school publications."



Charlie Corpuscle to visit NC again

By Gail Paik

It has become a North Central Senior Class tradition to perform a community service by donating blood.

This year's Senior Blood Drive

IN BRIEF

Today is the last day to drop a class without paying fees.

Today is the last day for seniors to order graduation announcements.

Feb. 12, 1988 is the registration deadline for the SAT tests to be given on Mar. 19, 1988.

There will be no school on Feb. 15, President's Day.

Book rental and lab fees will be collected on Wed. Jan. 17.

The North Central Orchestra will present its 23rd annual Evening Concert on Wed., Feb. 10 at 7:30 pm in the auditorium. Tickets are available at the door or from orchestra students.

In its January 13 decision in Kuhlmeier vs. Hazelwood, the Supreme Court struck a serious blow against student rights when it gave school administrators broad powers of censorship. This action is nothing short of appalling as it strips students of many of their First Amendment rights upon entrance of the schoolgates. The decision seems to imply that students are not only too young to deserve their basic rights, but too immature to be responsible for their own actions.

In the past, student newspapers have provided a unique, open forum which has allowed for a discussion of a wide range of issues, specifically as they pertain to students. The High Court decision has effectively

placed student publications in bondage, relegating "the leaders of tomorrow" to an existence where they are to be seen and not heard. These outdated ideals hardly seem conducive to producing a society capable of carrying the torch of democracy into the 21st century.

Not only will high school papers feel the stinging effect of this ruling, but high school stages are also likely to fall prey to the handcuffs of censure. In fact, all forms of student expression now face the possibility of being forced to promote only the views of which the administration approves. Students may be driven to the underground to escape this iron grip.

Perhaps even more disheartening

is what the decision may mean to the overall quality of education. The ability of schools to teach responsibility through the responsible exercise of basic rights has been seriously hampered. Students may be thrust out into the real world without the tools necessary to deal with what they will face. Schools that cannot provide these tools are unable to provide their students with a truly well-rounded education.

In all probability, this stand taken by the Supreme Court will not drastically change life at North Central, but this does not make the ruling any more just.

Editorial

Feature

A Day in the Life

3,378 students

Present building completed in 1963.

Became a four year high school in 1982-83 school year.

NC is the largest high school in Indiana.

The class of '89 needs forty credits to graduate.

Learning Unlimited was implemented in 1974.

The purpose of *The Northern Lights* is to acquaint the reader with events of importance and publish material for enjoyment and thought.

But North Central is more than facts.

More than numbers.

More than grades.

It's a place where the popular, the unpopular, the cruel, the kind, the intellectuals, the scum, the loners, the overachievers, the individualists, the normal, the strange, are thrown together and form the entire student body of North Central.

It's a place to escape from and a place to escape to.

It's a place of young people trying to find out who they are, where they have been, and where they are going.

The Northern Lights is proud to present "A Day in the Life of North Central"...a photographic look beyond the facts and into what NC really is.



"Go, North Central on to victory,
We'll make a valiant stand
for all the world to see.
Lift up your colors bright,
and we will fight! fight!
fight!
And we'll score again and
win for the red, black, and
white.
We'll give a shout for
Central as we meet the foe.
With banners flying,
onward we are sure to go.
Come on and march along
to victory,
And we'll win the game for
North Central High."
School song written by
Henry and Linda Watkins



Do you think NC is a good place to be an individual?
"Yes, because there are people of all different kinds here. You can be anyone you want to be without people bothering you."
Erin Koon, senior

Feature

of North Central

Do you think the teachers' work slow down is harming the students?

"I think it is affecting the students. I don't get some tests, especially essay tests, back until the end of the six weeks and by then it's too late to improve my grades."

Ashley Fouché, junior

"It has not harmed me in any way, because only one of my teachers is "slowing down." I do think it has the potential to do so, and probably would if all the teachers followed it."

Mickey Miller, senior



What do you think about the Career Center?

"It helps you decide what you want to major in."

Matt Ward, sophomore



What do you think of Learning Unlimited?

"It gives you time to work on what you want and it gives you a chance to make your own schedule."

Kelly Bolinger, freshman

Feature

A Day in the Life of North Central



What do you think of the cafeteria food?

"I personally think the food is fairly good, but then again I eat just about anything I look at. They can get rid of the Chuckwagons though!"
Joann Bergida, senior

"The cafeteria is an attractive, clean room; and keeping it in that condition is the responsibility of every student....Since there are ample serving lines, there is no need for running in the cafeteria. Students are not to cut in line. They may sit at any table of their choice. Adequate conveyor space is provided for each student to return his own tray."

Student Handbook, '85-'87

Do you think NC is a good school?

"I don't see why we have to have cops. I think it would be better if the rules weren't so strictly enforced."

so strictly enforced.
Mark Mason, sophomore

"I think it is a good high school, the best in Marion County. Many people don't realize how lucky we are to attend a school with an excellent education program, and many wonderful teachers. NC is known statewide for its educational program; we all should appreciate it more."

Tonya Boschman, senior

What do you think of school spirit at NC?

"I think we should have more pep rallies and spirit weeks because it makes school more fun. And with pep rallies, everyone can get involved."

Avanna Caldwell, freshman



Security Job Description:

"I'm a supervisor of eight employees in 13 schools... [My] primary job objective is to maintain an educational atmosphere... make a safe, drug-free environment so that people can get an education."

Dan Cedars ("Barney"), Captain of Washington Township School Police

What do you think of Barney?

"I think he's a nice person. I think he helps the students - he's friends with a lot of them. He's one of the people that care about the students, unlike some other people in the administration. And when he busts people, people say he's a **** but I feel he's just doing his job."

Mitch Montgomery, senior

Do you think there is a need for police at NC?

"No, I think it makes it seem like we're living in a repressive regime. If the assistant principals can't handle the situation, we should get new assistant principals. I don't see the point of the policemen... they just seem to get in the way."

Emily Shortridge, senior

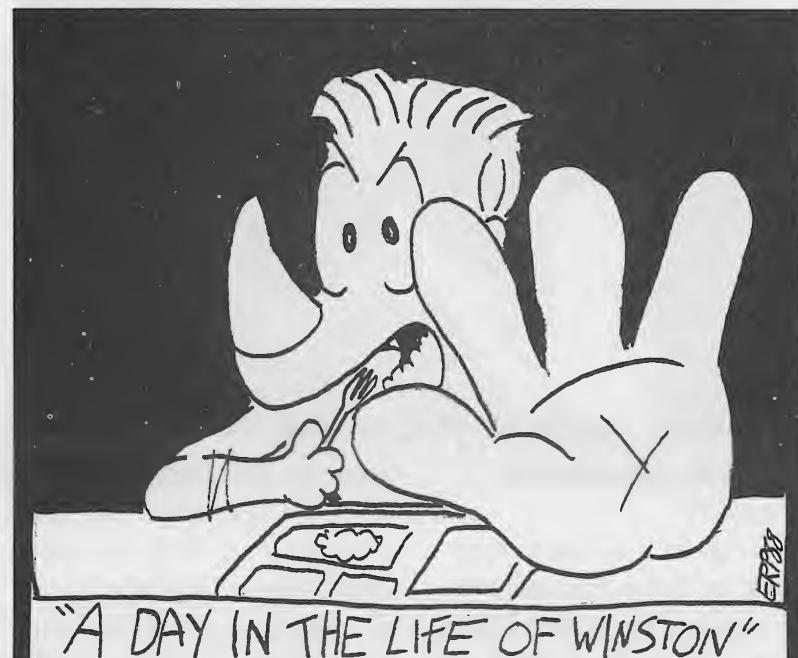
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"A Day in the Life of NC"
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Feature

A Day in the Life of North Central

North Central Philosophy of Education:
"...involves careful attention to basic individual needs
including social, moral, and physical development..."
Student Handbook '85-'87

North Central High School Goals:
"The high school strives to create a positive institutional
climate in which students can learn..."
Student Handbook '85-'87



Newspaper staff experiments with their new computers as the entire staff asks:
"What's this button for?"



What do you think of the
restrooms at NC?

"It's [sic] a pit, I mean there's
always paper towels in sink,
and cigarettes in the stalls,
water on the floor, stuff
written all over the mirrors.
Other than that, they are
clean."

Brian Parrott, junior

"The trashcans are a little
full... some of the stalls don't
even have doors."

Zoe Abdul, junior



What's the best part about
riding the bus?
"Nothing."
Wesley Schenk, senior

What's the worst part
about riding the bus?
"It comes too early."
Monica Lucas, junior

"The ceilings are too low."
Chip Wright, senior

Boys' basketball suffers recent setbacks

By Brett Henry

The County Tournament was both good and bad for the boys' basketball team. The team won two games and reached the semifinals, but then lost a hard fought battle in the semifinal contest.

En route to the final four, the Panthers won their first and second round games pretty easily. To start it all off, they downed Lawrence Central 72-57. Tony Barbee scored 27 and John Carter

added 15 as the Panthers beat the Bears for the second time this season.

Next, N.C. ripped Speedway 90-67, as the backcourt duo of Carter and Aaron Shelby combined for 48 points, including 12 three-pointers. Then came a disappointing loss as the Panthers fell to Lawrence North, 66-62, in a very tight matchup. Of the game, junior Greg Akers com-

mented, "We didn't play too badly. They just made the plays when they needed to and we didn't."

In other action, the team defeated Ben Davis in overtime, 73-72, on the road and then lost 67-64 at home to Pike to run its record to 10-4. The squad is improving with every game, though. "We're coming along and should be able to peak around sectional time," said Akers.



Junior Tony Barbee drives for two against Pike
photo by Hal Rodenberg

Girls' basketball working in mid-season

By Steve Campbell

"Hoosier Hysteria" has hit North Central once again. The boys' basketball team is off to another fine start. But there is another side to the hysteria that is also striving for success. In this young season, the Lady Panther Basketball team is also making a name for themselves.

This year's team is a squad with a highly talented senior class. Six seniors highlight the 1988 roster. The team is lead by Shannon Black and Debra Lane, who both were in the starting lineup last year. They are joined by several more returning seniors: Julie Cohan, Tonia Fish-

man, Jennifer Hoagland, and Martha Mayes. All six of these players have been a part of the N.C. program for their entire four years at N.C.

In addition to the seniors on the squad the Lady Panthers have some aspiring underclassmen, ready to take the helm of the team. Juniors Jenny Barto, Jennifer James, and Lori Satterfield will provide the needed boost for the team, along with sophomores Denyeil Mayberry and Dionne Smith.

This year's team has already had several tough battles. The girls played Broad Ripple, Pike,

Lawrence Central, and Carmel. This year's toughest game probably came against fourth ranked state power Brebeuf. Brebeuf is led by all-american Vicki Hall. Also at Brebeuf, the Lady Panthers competed in the Marion County Tournament in early January, and they will also compete in the sectional tournament at the north-western school.

Coach Chuck Boehlke's Panthers hope to advance in the state tournament all the way to the state championship tournament at Market Square Arena in February.

Gymnastics kicks off season with win

By Patrick Mulry

The North Central girls' gymnastics team kicked off their season with a win in their first meet versus Ben Davis at home. A virtual blowout, the girls de-

feated the Lady Giants by ten points, a big win in gymnastics competition.

The N.C. girls' record is now 2-2, with another victory against Decatur Central and losses to Warren Central and Perry Meridian. Although only .500 so far this season, Assistant Coach Kurt Benjamin said "all the matches, with the exception of Ben Davis, have been pretty close."

Keeping the meets close this year is a relatively young team, consisting of five juniors and four sophomores. Juniors Darci Galloway, Kim Floyd, Mari McDonald, Ellie Herman and Michelle Halcomb lead the team while sophomores Lisa Brown, Krista Akers, Marci Erlichman and Sylvia Ertel help gain valuable points in team competition.

Injuries have plagued the team this year. Herman is suffering from a sprained knee ligament,

Brown with a back injury and various other injuries to other members of the team. Benjamin hopes for Herman to return before the county meet Feb. 11.

Benjamin feels that both Herman and Halcomb have state qualifying potential; Herman on the uneven bars and Halcomb on the balance beam, but only "if she can improve her routine more." The girls season is far from over, with some tough matches coming up. After the county meet, the team will face Marion on Feb. 29 and then goes to sectionals March 5.

For the team to be successful in the remainder of the season, Benjamin feels they must bring their team scores up. "They (the points) were up in the first meet, but since then they've been lower. We need to get our team scores back up to do well."



Junior Michelle Halcomb practices her moves.
photo by John Keenan

Standing behind the Mike

School unfair to hockey?

By Mike Mattler

After last Sunday's Super Bowl, fans were able to witness what has become known as the thrill of victory - that intense feeling of satisfaction which comes with having achieved the ultimate goal. It has often been said, however, that such joys are somewhat hollow if there are not others with whom they may be shared. One group of athletes at North Central is able to experience this emptiness first hand, as they struggle in its efforts to make itself known to the student body. The group is the North Central Hockey Club, and its frustrations are the result of administration policies which prohibit it from having its upcoming games and scores read on the daily announcements.

The club is simply trying to attract more fans to cheer them on at its games. Because of the fact that many students do not even realize that organized hockey exists at North Central, this task is not an easy one. The effect of the club's anonymity, according to senior member Vince Springer, is easily seen. "It really hurts to have some team that comes in from Southern Illinois or Ohio with a crowd twice as large as ours. That's just demoralizing."

While the administration may understand the position of the hockey club, it has not seen fit to make any changes in its policy. According to Vice-Principal William Bugher, the club is subject to the same rules as "any other organization that is not sponsored by the school." These guidelines state that such groups may post publicity flyers in areas designated for that purpose, but are not allowed access to the daily announcements.

It hardly seems that the request of the hockey club is unreasonable in this case. This group is not asking for school sponsorship or funding, only for the full opportunity to make itself known. These athletes are different from those of other sports only in that they excel in an area which the school has neither the money nor the facilities to accommodate. This minute point should not be allowed to stand in the way of the North Central Hockey Club's ability to publicize itself and to introduce North Central students to a new and exciting sport. Mr. Roach has shown in the past to be quite responsive to the student body. Hopefully, he will see fit to make an exception to his policy on this issue.